



OFFICE OF THE
HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H-5255 – AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 – HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

I write on behalf of the State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) regarding [House Bill 5255](#) that amends OHIC's enabling statute to add primary care services to the scope of the existing social and human services programs review process (the 'rate review'). OHIC applauds the bill sponsors' efforts to create a consistent process for reviewing Medicaid reimbursement for primary care services and offers the following comments.

OHIC supports the goals of this legislation and notes that Article 8, Section 8, of Governor McKee's FY 2026 recommended budget accomplishes the same ends by adding primary care services to the scope of the rate review. The Article 8 language includes a different definition of primary care services, inclusive of care management, which is an essential component of team-based primary care. While OHIC may take an expansive view of the definition in H 5255 to include care management, the administration suggests that the definition in Article 8 should be used, given recent actions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to create three new billing codes for Advanced Primary Care Management Services in the 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule.

OHIC has a specific concern regarding the timing for recommendations set forth in the bill. H 5255 states: *"On and after September 1, 2025, all biennial reports shall include a review and recommendations of rates for primary care services."* Current law requires a biennial review, of which OHIC is in process of completing, with recommendations due in September of this year. As presently written, H 5255 calls for the submission of recommendations for primary care services on September 1, 2025. This timeline does not afford sufficient time to conduct a rate review for these services, nor are the funding resources for this effort included in OHIC's FY 2025 budget.

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OHIC stands ready to engage with primary care providers, and other interested parties, to perform a data-driven rate review process for Medicaid reimbursement. In addition to Medicaid, the administration is taking action to address primary care funding from other payers. In December 2023, OHIC issued a report, [Primary Care in Rhode Island: Current Status and Policy Recommendations](#), which included findings and recommendations. In this report, OHIC committed to taking action to address the need for greater primary care funding from commercial health insurers in the state. In Governor McKee's FY 2025 recommended budget, a proposal included adding primary care to the OHIC rate review process but was not included in the enacted budget. In addition, final regulations mandating a multi-year increase in commercial insurer funding for primary care have been filed with the Secretary of State and will be effective on March 20, 2025.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the performance and sustainability of Rhode Island's primary care infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Cory B. King
Health Insurance Commissioner

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House